

REMARKS

Per the Examiner's request, Applicants cancels claims 44-47, 65-74, and 76-82, and adds newly numbered claims 83-101 to correspond to the cancelled claims. Consequently, this amendment does not add new matter to this application. Claim 45, which was incorporated into claim 44, should have been cancelled previously and, therefore, is not included in the newly renumbered claims. For the Examiner's convenience, the pending claims are attached hereto as "Exhibit A."

It is believed that no fee is due. However, if any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 are required for any reason relating to these documents, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Fulbright & Jaworski Deposit Account No. 50-1212/10020907/GNS.

Respectfully submitted,



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INDA:005USD1/10020907
USN 09/626,616**APPENDIX A:****Pending Claims**

83. A process of screening a candidate substance for its ability to bind to a mu opioid receptor comprising:
- a) providing a recombinant mu opioid receptor polypeptide comprising the contiguous amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:8, or SEQ ID NO:17;
 - b) obtaining a candidate substance; and
 - c) testing the ability of said candidate substance to bind to said opioid receptor.
84. The process of claim 83 wherein the step of testing the ability of the candidate substance to bind to the opioid receptor involves determining the binding affinity of the candidate substance to the receptor.
85. The process of claim 83 wherein the step of testing the ability of the candidate substance to bind to the opioid receptor involves determining the intrinsic activation ability of the candidate substance for the receptor.
86. A process for screening a candidate substance for its ability to bind to a mu opioid receptor comprising:
- (a) providing a recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence comprising at least 35 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:7, including the guanine nucleotide at position 389 of SEQ ID NO:7;
 - (b) contacting the substance with the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide; and
 - (c) detecting the ability of the candidate substance to bind to the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide.

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87. The process of claim 86, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises at least 45 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:7, including the guanine nucleotide at position 389 of SEQ ID NO:7.
88. The process of claim 86, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises at least 50 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:7, including the guanine nucleotide at position 389 of SEQ ID NO:7.
89. The process of claim 86, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises at least 75 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:7, including the guanine nucleotide at position 389 of SEQ ID NO:7.
90. The process of claim 86, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises at least 100 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:7, including the guanine nucleotide at position 389 of SEQ ID NO:7.
91. The process of claim 86, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:7, including the guanine nucleotide at position 389 of SEQ ID NO:7.
92. The process of claim 86, wherein detecting the ability of the candidate substance to bind to the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide involves measuring (i) the ability of the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide to bind the candidate substance; (ii) ability of the candidate substance to activate ion channels in a cell membrane; or (ii) modulation of ion channels in the cell membrane of part (ii).
93. The process of claim 86, wherein recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide is chimeric.
94. A process for screening a candidate substance for its ability to bind to an opioid receptor comprising:

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- (a) expressing a recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence comprising at least 35 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO:7, including the guanine nucleotide at position 389 of SEQ ID NO:7;
 - (b) contacting the candidate substance with the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide; and
 - (c) detecting the ability of the candidate substance to bind to the recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide.
95. The process of claim 94, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises at least 40 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:7, including the guanine nucleotide at position 389 of SEQ ID NO:7.
96. The process of claim 94, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises at least 45 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:7, including the guanine nucleotide at position 389 of SEQ ID NO:7.
97. The process of claim 94, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises at least 50 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:7, including the guanine nucleotide at position 389 of SEQ ID NO:7.
98. The process of claim 94, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises at least 75 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:7, including the guanine nucleotide at position 389 of SEQ ID NO:7.
99. The process of claim 94, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises at least 100 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:7, including the guanine nucleotide at position 389 of SEQ ID NO:7.
100. The process of claim 94, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:7, including the guanine nucleotide at position 389 of SEQ ID NO:7.

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101. The process of claim 94, wherein recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide is chimeric.

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